

Power Over Satan

by Joseph Hovsepian | Reading: Mark 5:1-20

One day a woman called me and asked, “Do you pray for demon-possessed people? I am demon possessed.” Although I had received all kinds of calls from people who claimed to have multiple personalities or be possessed by evil spirits, and a few who had threatened me while they were under the influence of satanic power, this particular call gave me the shivers.

She told me about the powers that had been given to her by her mother and grandmother, both priestesses who were practising witchcraft. To make a very long story short, after many prayers and a period of calmness, she started coming to church and prayer meetings.

One night, right after the Bible study, she asked me to pray with her because she felt the evil spirits in her were trying to destroy her. I asked an elder to come with me into my office to pray with me for her. This woman reminded me of the demon-possessed man in the New Testament who lived in the tombs and could not be controlled, even with chains. She screamed and shouted, started foaming and turned red hot. When I touched her arm it felt like burning coal. With God’s help, and through Jesus Christ, she was delivered.

The Bible says that a large number of those whom Jesus healed were “possessed by demons.” What or who were these demons?

In the Gospels, demons are described as belonging to the kingdom of Satan, with knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God. They spoke, recognizing that they had a separate personality and consciousness than the person in whom they dwelt. These spirits were waiting to be tormented in the abyss and looked ahead to the judgment with fear and trembling.

Jesus was not interested in the demons but in the people who suffered because of them. The Bible is clear that demoniacs were not mere lunatics but real cases of “invaded personalities.” The demons,

whatever their origin or nature, were evil and afflicted the many people they entered.

In Mark 5:1-20, Christ met His (and our) enemy in a graveyard. Here was a dangerous and wild man, possessed by a legion of demons – enough to drive 2,000 pigs to drown in a lake. These demons recognized the authority of Jesus Christ immediately. They preferred to live in swine rather than go to their own place.

As Christians, we must face the reality that demonic powers are real and are here to stay until the judgment day. Every Christian has a fight to fight, a struggle against the powers of darkness.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12.

Satan wants to destroy our bodies and condemn our souls to hell. The fact that the demons were afraid that Christ would “torture them before their time” (Matthew 8:29) indicates that there is a future judgment for Satan and his armies. Demons need bodies in order to do their work in this world, just as the Holy Spirit needs the Christian’s Body.

While Satan still uses demon possession to express his hatred for God and mankind, he usually does so in less spectacular ways. For example, he might get people to believe that, if there is a God, He won’t mind people having fun and pleasure, even if it seems immoral and sinful to fanatics.

Such a belief is very attractive to many because it promises freedom from moral restraints and offers immediate gratification. But many who start down that road of permissiveness are soon trapped in a lifestyle of addiction and shameless practices that rob them of self-respect, satisfaction and hope. And, actually, Satan has them in his power, just as he had the demon-possessed man in his power.

We should be encouraged in knowing that Christ has power over Satan.

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the One Who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” 1 John 4:4.

And He gives us the authority to fight the enemy:

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7.

The good news for those who are trapped in sin is that Jesus Christ still delivers all who turn to Him. And the good news for those who have trusted Christ for deliverance is that we have a message of hope that is worth telling!

Will you tell others about Jesus and His saving power? 